
Energy and Environment Committee
March 3, 2005

Action Minutes

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Energy and Environment Committee held its meeting at SCAG Offices downtown Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by Margaret Clark, Chair, Rosemead. There was a quorum.

Members Present

Bertone, Denis	SGVCOG
Clark, Margaret (Chair)	City of Rosemead
Cook, Debbie	City of Huntington Beach
King, Dorothy	Gateway Cities COG
Marchand, Paul	City of Cathedral City
Nelson, Larry	City of Artesia
Washburn, Dennis	City of Calabasas
Young, Toni	City of Port Hueneme

Members Not Present

Eckenrode, Norman	City of Placentia
Forester, Larry	City of Signal Hill
Harrison, Jon	City of Redlands
Portantino, Anthony	City of La Canada/Flintridge
Van Arsdale, Lori	City of Hemet
Zerunyan, Frank	South Bay Cities COG

New Members

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Hon. Margaret Clark, Chair, Rosemead, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

3.0 REVIEW and PRIORITIZE

4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

4.1 Approval Item

4.1.1 Action Minutes of February 3, 2005

Motion by Nelson to approve the Action Minutes, Seconded by Bertone, then Approved by the majority of the Committee. Marchand abstained.

4.2 Receive and File

4.2.1 SCAG Future Events Calendar

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Conformity Determination for the 8-hour Ozone Standard

The Committee was given a brief review of the new stringent standard for conformity determination. The new federal conformity regulations require SCAG to receive approval from the US DOT on SCAG's conformity determination by June 15, 2005. If the US DOT does not approve SCAG's determination the region's conformity will lapse.

Motion by Washburn to recommend that the Regional Council adopt Resolution #05-461-1 approving the conformity determination for the 8-hour Ozone Standard for the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, Seconded by Bertone, then Unanimously upheld by the Committee.

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5.2 H.R. 18 (Baca) Southern California Groundwater Remediation Act

Charlotte Pienkos, SCAG Staff, reported that the Water Policy Task Force reviewed H.R. 18 (Baca) and asked that it be brought to the EEC with a policy recommendation. H.R. 18 is modeled after a successful measure Congressman Dreier brought forth to benefit the San Gabriel River Watershed. H.R. 18 appropriates 50 million dollars for Santa Ana River Watershed cleanup, including projects and associated and legally mandated costs dating from January 1, 2000 to present. At this time it is not envisioned that costs such as: super-fund cleanup expenses, CEQA, or NEPA would be reimbursable; reimbursement for those expenses are to be determined by the Secretary of the Interior, as outlined in the bill. The Water Policy Task Force also addressed the concern that the name of the bill did not adequately cover the geographical areas included in Southern California such as Ventura County, Imperial County, or San Diego County. The Task Force felt this would disadvantage those areas later in their efforts to obtain groundwater remediation funding. With that in mind staff has asked Mr. Baca's office for clarification of the title. The Committee amended the title to the "Santa Ana River Watershed Groundwater Remediation Act". Staff was also given direction to create an alternative title to include "Southern California".

Motion by Bertone to recommend that the Regional Council support with the amended title change of "Santa Ana River Watershed Groundwater Remediation Act", Seconded by Marchand, then Unanimously upheld by the Committee.

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Environmental Justice

Jacob Lieb, SCAG, briefed the Committee on SCAG's responsibilities for environmental justice under various federal laws and executive orders. A meeting has been scheduled for March 30, 2005 to review SCAG's Environmental Justice work on the 2004 RTP and to get input for the 2007 RTP.

6.2 Energy Efficiency Financing

Alan Thompson, SCAG, informed the Committee that the program provides financing for schools, hospitals, and local governments, through low-interest loans for feasibility studies or in the installation of energy saving measures. Loans can be financed up to 100% for a maximum of 1 million dollars.

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6.3 Preliminary Schedule for the 2004 RTP and PEIR

Ted Harris, SCAG, briefed the Committee on a proposed plan to accelerate the schedule for the Regional Transportation Plan by eight months. Normally adoption would take place in April 2007, however, in the event the adoption takes place in August 2006 due to financial issues, it would be prudent to have the flexibility of an accelerated schedule. This would also affect the EIR.

7.0 WATER POLICY TASK FORCE REPORT

Next meeting – April 14, 2005, 10a.m. to 12 noon.

8.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

None

9.0 STAFF REPORT

Ted Harris, SCAG, announced that UCLA is hosting a meeting on ARB's Land Use Guidance on March 4, 2005.

Sylvia Patsaouras, SCAG, provided the Committee with a handout on the General Assembly Award, previously called the Hagman Award. She also announced a Clean Cities Conference and Exposition in Palm Springs scheduled from May 1 – 4, 2005, which SCAG is sponsoring at the direction of the Regional Council.

Alan Thompson, SCAG, reported on the Local Government Coalition meeting Energy Opportunities for Public Agencies scheduled for April 20, 2005. Also, staff is in the process of selecting a date for an Energy Policy Workshop.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Discussion on Ultra Fine Particulate Pollution.

11.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Margaret Clark adjourned meeting at 11:48 a.m. in honor of Lori Van Arsdale's brother.

The next meeting of the Energy and Environment Committee will be held in the SCAG offices on Thursday, March 3, 2005.

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Action Minutes Approved
by:



Sylvia Patsaouras, Manager
Energy and Environment